



NEWS NOTES

Quarterly Publication of the Southern Maine Library District

Summer 2004

Update on the Tax Cap

- **MLA Opposes Tax Referendum**

Maine Library Association President Anne Davis announced that the following resolution was approved at the Annual MLA Meeting on May 14, 2004, regarding the "Citizen Initiative Tax Reform Referendum: An Act to Impose Limits on Real and Personal Property Taxes": *The Maine Library Association affirms the importance of meaningful property tax reform. The Maine Taxpayers' Action Network resolution, also known as the Palesky Proposal tax cap measure, appearing on the November 2004 ballot would have numerous unintended consequences, including the devastation and even elimination of many publicly funded Maine libraries. The Maine Library Association vigorously opposes its passage.*

- **Tax Cap Rally in Portland**

Librarians carrying "Maine Libraries – Something for Everyone" banners were among the participants at a rally held in Portland on August 4 sponsored by "Citizens United to Protect our Public Safety, Schools and Communities." Wes Bonney, retired CEO of Peoples Heritage Financial Group and chair of the new coalition, said he is worried about the effect the tax cap would have on Maine's children. "It is irresponsible to advocate a law that mandates cuts of more than a half-billion dollars but offers not a single solution for these drastic cuts." Other speakers included a realtor, firefighter, teacher, police chief, an AARP representative, and an economist.

- **Tax Cap Video Available for Loan or Purchase**

Videos of a panel discussion held at the Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth May 16 are available for loan through the SMLD Office and the Maine State Library. To purchase or borrow a copy from the State Library call Alan Fecteau at 1-800-322-8899; send either \$5 or a blank VHS good quality tape in lieu of payment.

- **More Tax Cap Information**

Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future by Peter Schrag, Norton, 1998.

Coping With Cutbacks: The Nonprofit Guide To Success When Times Are Tight by Emil Angelica and Vincent Hyman (ISBN 0-940069-09-1 (pbk)).

Library of the Month

The **Maine Medical Center Library** is the September SMLD "Library of the Month." MMC Library Director Janet Cowen began at MMC in February 2000 after serving as Library Director at Methodist Dallas Medical Center, site of the world's 1st successful heart-kidney-pancreas transplant.

MMC is part of the Maine Health Family which also includes St. Andrew's (Boothbay Harbor), Stephen's Memorial (Norway), Miles Memorial (Damariscotta) and Spring Harbor (Westbrook).

Each "Library of the Month" is featured on the SMLD website <http://www.state.me.us/msl/smld/index.htm> and loaned "Library of the Month" and "Maine Libraries – Something for Everyone" banners. Special thanks to Kathy and William Wahl of Casco for contributing the "Library of the Month" banner.

Maine Library Commission

Inese Gruber, Director, Windham Public Library, has been appointed the Southern Maine Library District's representative to the Commission. In addition to Gruber, Governor Baldacci's office recently announced the following appointments to the Maine Library Commission: **Gretchen Asam** (Presque Isle) School Representative; **James Ritter** (Morrill); and **Suzanne Finn** (Augusta); Members at large reappointed: **Karl Aromaa** (Rumford) and **Elizabeth Moran** (Camden).

Performers' Showcase

The "Mad Scientist," the Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, and the "Music Makers" (programs for infants) will be among the performers at the SMLD 17th Annual Showcase for library staff members. The free event will be held

Wednesday, September 15, 2004, at Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Contact the SMLD Office to register: tel. 871-1766.



Library Grants

The Maine Association of School Libraries (MASL) is offering five \$1,000 grants to Maine school libraries to support evidence-based practice. Applications should be delivered, mailed, e-mailed or faxed to Kelley McDaniel, King Middle School. FMI: mcdank@portlandschools.org
Deadline: Friday, Sept. 24, 2004, 4:00 pm

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Grants up to \$5,000 are available to help public libraries comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Funded by a New Century Community Program, grants must be matched by local funds or documented in-kind services. Deadline: September 30, 2004, 5:00 p.m.

Application online: <http://www.state.me.us/msl>. FMI: Linda Lord, Maine State Library, linda.lord@maine.gov.

Library Garden Calendar



Asters and mums are among the many lovely flowers that bloom in the fall. Capture your library's garden on film and submit the best photos for the Maine Regional Library System's garden calendar. Deadline: Sept. 30, 2004.

A total of 25 photos from all types of libraries (public, school, academic and special) will be selected for the calendar. Digital photos only.

FMI: <http://www.state.me.us/msl/> [What's New].

Area Reference & Resource Center News

"The Portland Public Library's **web catalog** has a new look," reports Suzanne Sullivan, Electronic Resources & Reference Librarian. The catalog now includes book covers, summaries, journal reviews, and author information for many books. "This exciting new content is provided by Syndetics Solutions on a yearly subscription basis. When a patron pulls up an item entry, the software will try to match the ISBN to the Syndetics database. If a match is found, the catalog will display an image of the book jacket. A new button at the top of the page labeled 'MORE ABOUT THIS BOOK' links to additional information about the book, which may include a summary of the book and reviews from

professional journals such as Booklist when available. New books are more likely to have reviews available."

Kristi Calhoun, the new Director of Development and Programming, reports that "the PPL ***Reach for the Stars capital campaign*** hopes to meet the needs of our constituency as we continue to redefine the role of the Library as a vital and exciting cultural institution."

FMI: Campaign office, 871-1700 ext. 723 or PPL Development and Programming, 871-1700 ext. 759.

Public computer time was limited from 120 minutes to 90 minutes effective July 6th. After one hour if no one is waiting, patrons may use the computer for an additional 30 minutes or re-enter the queue for 30 more minutes.

Brown Bag Lectures (12:00 – 1:00 p.m.):

Sept. 8, Author **Alfred DePew**. *Wild & Woolly:*

A Handbook for Journal Keepers.

Sept. 15, Author **Pamela Redmond Satran**.

Babes in Captivity.

Sept. 22, Author **Peter Kellman**. *Divided We Fall:*

the Story of the Paperworkers' Union and the Future of Labor.

Sept. 29, **The Portland String Quartet**.

Performance and lecture.

Around the District

Graves Memorial Public Library

"The selectmen tried to cut our budget request by \$6,000 and keep us at last year's amount. We really worked hard to get the right people to speak on our behalf and to get to Town Meeting to vote our way. [A staff member] manned the library desk wearing a hat that said VOTE! We managed to get what we asked for and needed...and deserved," reports Linda Wade, Director, Graves Memorial Library, Kennebunkport

Naples Public Library

A summer "House Tour" of 7 unique homes in the heart of the Lakes Region will benefit the library: an historic farmstead's "dower house," an early 20th century fishing camp, a California style contemporary, a classic Maine cottage, and lakeside estates are included.

Springvale Public Library

"Lose a Book" is a new reading program for teens in which young adults choose a book to read and leave it in a public place for others to read. Each book contains a bookplate explaining the program and postcards to be filled out by the person who finds the book. Children's Librarian Sheila Dube says "I believe that this program has provided a new interest to this age group to come check out library services."

People

New appointments

Cindy Bufithis, Library Media Specialist, Marshwood High School (formerly at Noble High School)

Kristi Calhoun, Director of Development and Programming, Portland Public Library (formerly Director of Development, Maine Chapter/National Multiple Sclerosis Society)

Janet Cate, Adult Services Librarian, Kennebunk Free Library (formerly children's librarian, Kennebunk Free Library)

Michael Whittaker, Branch Manager, Reiche/Portland Public Library

Resignations

Faith Rawding, Librarian, Cliff Island Stone Library

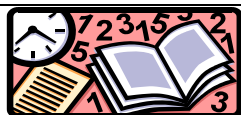
Melanie Ring, Children's Librarian, Bridgton Public Library

Stanley Olson, Director, Wells Public Library

Walk In Wireless Grants

"I would say almost everyday someone is seated somewhere using their own laptop," reports Inese Gruber, Windham Public Library, about their new wireless installation. Windham was one of the 1st of over 50 public libraries receiving wireless equipment under the Maine State Library's grant program. FMI:

<http://www.maine.gov/msl/infotech/wireless/walkinwireless.htm>



New Professional Collection Titles

Contact the SMLD Office to make suggestions for additional purchases. *Complete list of titles:*

<http://www.state.me.us/msl/smdl/professional.html>

The Collection Program in Schools: Concepts, Practices, and Information Sources, 3rd ed. Phyllis J. Van Orden and Kay Bishop with the assistance of Patricia Pawelak-Kort. Libraries Unlimited, 2001

Directory of Maine Grantmakers, 4th ed. Maine Philanthropy Center, 2004

Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Preteen and Teens. Michele Gorman. Linworth Publishing, Inc., 2003

Grants for School Libraries. Sylvia D. Hall-Ellis and Ann Jerabek. Libraries Unlimited, 2003

High/Low Handbook: Best Books and Web Sites for Reluctant Teen Readers, 4th ed. Ellen V. LiBretto and Catherine Barr. Libraries Unlimited, 2002

Wynar's Introduction to Cataloging and Classification, 9th ed. Arlene G. Taylor. Libraries Unlimited, 2000

Calendar

August 20	4th Annual Summer Reading Celebration Seashore Trolley Museum, Kennebunkport
August 30/31	SMLD Bindery Pick-Up/Delivery *
Sept. 25 – Oct. 2	Banned Books Week
September 15	SMLD Performers' Showcase. Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
September 16	Public Library Directors [Chattering Cheeses] Baxter Memorial Library, Gorham, 9:30 a.m.
September 17	Public Library Directors [Talking Heads] Springvale Public Library, 2:30 p.m.
September 24	Friends of Maine Libraries (FOML) Annual Conference. Senator Inn, Augusta
September 26-28	New England Library Association (NELA) Manchester, NH
September 27/28	SMLD Bindery Pick-Up/Delivery *
October 3 – 5	North Atlantic Health Science Libraries (NAHSL) Annual Meeting , Sebasco Harbor Resort, Maine. FMI: http://www.nahsl.org/2004/
October 13	SMLD Children's & YA Book Review Portland Public Library, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
October 17-19	Maine Libraries Conference Augusta Civic Center
October 22	Public Library Directors [Yapping Yorkies] Waterboro Public Library, 9:00 a.m.
October 25/26	SMLD Bindery Pick-Up/Delivery *
October 26	Children's Librarians. "Library Resources on a Shoestring." Baxter Memorial Library, Gorham. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
October 29	Public Library Directors [Loose Librarians] Spaulding Memorial Library, Sebago, 9:00 a.m.
December 3	SMLD COUNCIL MEETING Portland Public Library

* FMI: http://www.maine.gov/msl/for_libs/regions/bindery.htm

WebJunction <http://webjunction.org/do/Home> is a free online community forum where library staff meet to share ideas, solve problems, take online courses. Sponsored by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center).